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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 761
By Brooks

A RESOLUTION to recognize and honor Dr. Bobby Jones for his
laudable service to the people of Tennessee and
for his many achievements in the gospel music
industry.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute those
venerable citizens who, through their great capacity for love, dedication of spirit, and faith in
God, strive to enrich the lives of the people in their respective communities and who through
their efforts have distinguished themselves as community leaders of whom we can all be proud;
and

WHEREAS, Dr. Bobby Jones is an invaluable community leader, talented musician and
much, much more; he is renowned throughout this state, this nation, and internationally as a
man whose life and ministry have affirmed his commitment to the principles of faith,
perseverance, and hard work; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Jones, the host and executive producer of Bobby Jones Gospel and the
producer of Video Gospel, has been affiliated with Black Entertainment Television since the
inception of the company in 1980; he is best known for his show, Bobby Jones Gospel, which

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has been aired on the nationally syndicated BET Network since November, 1980, and has become one of the network's most popular television shows; and

WHEREAS, after twenty-five years of inspirational programming, Bobby Jones Gospel is now the longest running entertainment program in cable television history; it also has the distinction of being the first program aired on the Black Entertainment Television Network and has been the highest Neilson-rated show on BET for twenty years. Innovative in concept, design and execution, Bobby Jones Gospel is the first and only nationally syndicated black gospel television show; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Jones' Video Gospel is the second constant highest rated show produced by Dr. Jones for BET; debuting in 1989, Video Gospel is the only national television outlet that features videos by gospel artists; and

WHEREAS, a revolutionary force in the gospel music industry, Dr. Bobby Jones was born in Henry County and always dreamt of pursuing a career in music; he excelled academically graduating from high school at the young age of fifteen and earning a bachelor's degree in Elementary Education from Tennessee State University by the age of nineteen; he taught elementary school in the Missouri and Tennessee educational systems while pursuing his master's degree, which he finished at Tennessee State University; he later earned his doctorate from Vanderbilt University; and

WHEREAS, during the period in which he was helping to shape and influence young minds as a teacher, Dr. Jones helped to develop the idea for a Black Expo in Nashville. It was also during this time that he submitted the pilot for his gospel music show to WSMV-TV; the station subsequently broadcast the innovative show that Dr. Jones had created, produced, and hosted and Bobby Jones Gospel ran locally in Nashville from 1976 until it was picked up by BET for national syndication in 1980; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Jones also created, produced, and hosted Bobby Jones World, a magazine-style show which aired from 1978-84; the show incorporated gospel music with appearances by world-renowned authors, entertainers, and national leaders; and

WHEREAS, Bobby Jones soon extended his talents into the television and movie arena; in 1982, he made his television movie debut in NBC's Sisters, Sisters starring Diahann Carroll, Paul Winfield, and Irene Cara; in 1980, he wrote and performed in Make A Joyful Noise, a black gospel opera which aired on PBS; in 1983, he was a guest on country music star Ronnie Milsap's television special, In Celebration; and

WHEREAS, in 1980, Dr. Jones received The Gabriel Award and an International Film Festival Award for writing and performing Make A Joyful Noise; he and his group, New Life, were nominated for a Grammy Award in 1982 for "Best Performance by a Black Contemporary Gospel Group" for the album Soul Set Free. In 1984, he received the Gospel Music Association's Dove Award for "Black Contemporary Album of the Year," for that same album, a Grammy Award for "Best Vocal Duo for a Soul/Gospel Performance" for the single, I'm So Glad I'm Standing Here Today, which was performed with country music star Barbara Mandrell, and a NAACP Image Award; in 1990, he received the GMA's Commonwealth Award for Outstanding Contribution to Gospel Music. In 1994, Dr. Jones was nominated for the CableACE Award; and

WHEREAS, his most recent recognition was on June 29, 2001, when Dr. Jones, as one of the Black Music Month Legend Honorees, was recognized by President George W. Bush as "The Revolutionizer of the Gospel Music Industry." It was on that day that President Bush signed the Black Music Month Proclamation, which recognized and celebrated the unique talent and significant contributions of the black musicians, vocalists, writers, and producers who have shaped jazz, gospel, rap, rock 'n' roll, and rhythm and blues music; and

WHEREAS, two days earlier, on June 27, 2001, the United States House of Representatives had honored Dr. Jones for "Twenty-five Years of Service to the Gospel Music Industry". It was on this special occasion that Congressman Bob Clement honored Dr. Jones by

including his accomplishments in the Congressional Record, and Take Six, an internationally renowned vocal group, serenaded the members of Congress, Dr. Jones, his accompanying family and friends, and representatives from the Black Entertainment Television Network, with a moving rendition of "Oh Mary Don't You Weep" in honor of this great Gospel Icon of the Twenty-first Century; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to pause in its deliberations to acknowledge and applaud Dr. Jones for his stalwart dedication to the State of Tennessee and its citizens and for his many years of accomplishment and success in the gospel music industry; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we hereby honor Dr. Bobby Jones for his pioneering efforts in bringing gospel music to a wider audience and salute his unswerving commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we express to Dr. Jones our fondest wishes for much continued success and happiness in the future.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.